

Register by the United States Trade Representative that a trade agreement obligating reciprocal most-favored-nation treatment between Cambodia and the United States had entered into force.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

The President shall submit to the Congress, not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, a report on the trade between the United States and Cambodia pursuant to the trade agreement described in section 2(b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE].

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1642, legislation to extend permanent most-favored-nation [MFN] tariff treatment to the products of Cambodia. This legislation, which was introduced by myself and the ranking member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, Mr. RANGEL, is noncontroversial and was reported out of the Ways and Means Committee by a voice vote on June 20.

After two decades of civil war, Cambodia held democratic elections in May, 1993. Upon the formation of the freely elected Royal Cambodian Government on September 24, 1993, the United States and Cambodia immediately established full diplomatic relations. To normalize trade relations between our countries, the United States concluded an agreement with Cambodia in the spring of 1994 on bilateral trade relations and intellectual property protection that calls for a reciprocal extension of MFN status.

Since taking office, the Cambodian Government has taken steps, and planned additional action, to convert the Cambodian economy from one based on central planning to one based on market-oriented principles. Establishing normal commercial relations with Cambodia will assist in this transformation by making Cambodian exports to the United States more competitive in the global marketplace.

In addition, establishing normal commercial relations with Cambodia on a reciprocal basis will promote United States exports to the rapidly growing southeast Asian region and expand opportunities for United States businesses and investment in the Cambodian economy. Furthermore, expanding our bilateral trade relations with Cambodia will promote further progress by Cambodia on human rights and toward the adoption of regional and world trading rules and principles.

The Congressional Budget Office has determined that enactment of H.R. 1642 has no significant budgetary effect.

I urge my colleagues to support enactment of this legislation.

□ 1545

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE] has adequately explained this piece of legislation. I want to just comment a little on the term "most favored nation."

First of all, I heartily endorse what the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE] has said. We need to grant most-favored-nation treatment to Cambodia. Now, I hate to explain this to my colleagues, but most favored nation does not mean that much. It just means normal trading status for an emerging country.

I mention this because every now and then somebody gets on the floor and says, oh, for that horrible country, and then they will name the country, you are giving them most-favored trading status, which sounds like you are really giving them something.

Well, we are not really giving them anything. We are giving ourselves access to their markets and them to our markets on the same basis that we give all the other nations on earth, with very few minor exceptions.

So I hope nobody will take umbrage by the fact that we are granting most-favored-nation treatment to little Cambodia. Cambodia has had a tortured career in the last few years. They have had terrible revolutions in their country and awful bloodshed, but they have signaled that they want to go right and want to do the right thing.

It is time that we welcome them into the family of trading nations. Perhaps as more of our people go there and more of their people come here and as we exchange goods with each other, we may exchange some ideas that will do us both some good.

Mr. Speaker, I heartily endorse most-favored-nation treatment for Cambodia.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend our ranking minority member on the Committee on Ways and Means who has been a devotee of the advancement of free trade principles in all the years I have had the privilege of working with him. I think it illustrates the bipartisan support that we have on this proposal before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I year back the balance of by time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. CRANE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1642.

The question was taken.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matter on H.R. 1642.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

EXTENDING MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT TO BULGARIA

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill—H.R. 1643—to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment—most-favored-nation treatment—to the products of Bulgaria.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1643

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND SUPPLEMENTAL ACTION.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that Bulgaria—

(1) has received most-favored-nation treatment since 1991 and has been found to be in full compliance with the freedom of emigration requirements under title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 since 1993;

(2) has reversed many years of Communist dictatorship and instituted a constitutional republic ruled by a democratically elected government as well as basic market-oriented reforms, including privatization;

(3) is in the process of acceding to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and extension of unconditional most-favored-nation treatment would enable the United States to avail itself of all rights under the GATT and the WTO with respect to Bulgaria; and

(4) has demonstrated a strong desire to build friendly relationships and to cooperate fully with the United States on trade matters.

(b) SUPPLEMENTAL ACTION.—The Congress notes that the United States Trade Representative intends to negotiate with Bulgaria in order to preserve the commitments of that country under the bilateral commercial agreement in effect between that country and the United States that are consistent with the GATT and the WTO.

SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF APPLICATION OF TITLE IV OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 TO BULGARIA.

(a) PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATIONS AND EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT.—Notwithstanding any provision of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.), the President may—

(1) determine that such title should no longer apply to Bulgaria; and

(2) after making a determination under paragraph (1) with respect to Bulgaria, proclaim the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of that country.

(b) TERMINATION OF APPLICATION OF TITLE IV.—On and after the effective date of the extension under subsection (a)(2) of non discriminatory treatment to the products of Bulgaria, title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 shall cease to apply to that country.